

### 1. Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam

- Paddlefish snagging:
  - **open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays** from May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST) daily, unless closed to harvest earlier by FWP.
  - **closed Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays.**
- An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed.
- Catch-and-release snagging for paddlefish is not permitted.

### 2. Yellowstone River from the mouth of the Bighorn River to Intake Dam (not including Intake Fishing Access Site) and downstream of Intake Fishing Access Site to North Dakota State Line

- Paddlefish Snagging:
  - **open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays** from May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST) daily, unless closed to harvest earlier by FWP.
  - **closed Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays.**
- An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed.
- Catch-and-release snagging for paddlefish is not permitted.

### 3. Intake Fishing Access Site

- Paddlefish Snagging:
  - **open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays** from May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST) daily, unless closed to harvest earlier by FWP.
- An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed. It is unlawful to release a paddlefish except on designated catch-and-release days during the open season for paddlefish.
- Catch-and-release snagging:
  - **open Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays** from May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST) daily, unless closed earlier by FWP.
- Evidence of a current year yellow paddlefish tag must be in possession to fish for paddlefish. All paddlefish must be released immediately and may not be gaffed or lifted out of the water. Captured fish must remain at least partially submerged in water at all times (to avoid injury to the fish). Following the harvest closure, catch-and-release snagging will be allowed, at Intake Fishing Access Site only, for 10 consecutive days or through June 30, whichever comes first.

### 4. Intake Diversion Dam to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted

- Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats/vessels.



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

## 2014 Paddlefish Regulations

All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase the proper prerequisite conservation license, fishing license and paddlefish tag (see License Requirements in the 2014 Montana Fishing Regulations). All licenses must be in the angler's immediate possession while fishing.

**Daily and Possession Limits and Tags:** 1 paddlefish per season per angler. Anglers may select only one of the following areas, and may only fish in the area selected:

- Upper Missouri River, upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton - **WHITE TAG**
- Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam - **YELLOW TAG**
- Fort Peck Dredge Cuts (west of Park Grove Bridge and Nelson Dredge) on the Missouri River - **BLUE TAG**

### General Paddlefish Regulations for ALL Areas

- All waters open to angling (except the Ft Peck Dredge Cuts Archery section) are open to snagging paddlefish during the open paddlefish season by anglers with a valid tag, .
- Snagging non-game fish is allowed on all open waters in the Eastern District except on the Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton to the North Dakota border and on the Yellowstone River downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River.
- Each angler must cast for, hook and reel in his or her own paddlefish. It is unlawful for another person to do so. It is illegal to loan tags or use another angler's tag.
- Hook size is limited to 8/0 and smaller for all paddlefish snagging.
- Gaffs, no longer than 4.5 feet in length, may be used to land a paddlefish that will be tagged. Gaffs may not be used to land a paddlefish that will be released.
- Any tag locked shut prior to attachment to a paddlefish shall be void and is not replaceable. Any altered or modified tag shall be void. **Voided or lost tags are not replaceable.**
- Paddlefish must be tagged immediately upon harvest.
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or part of one. If anglers cut up a paddlefish, they must keep the part of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) where the tag is attached and sealed to the fish.
- Tags must remain with processed fish until consumption.
- When a paddlefish is captured and tagged, the fish must be removed from the river by the end of the day (9:00 PM, MST).

### Paddlefish Season Summary by River and River Section

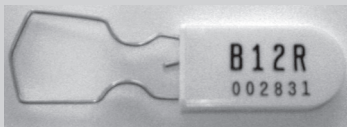
River	River Section	Tag Color	Season Dates	Harvest Days	C&R Days
Missouri River	Ft Peck Dam to Ft Benton	white	May 1 - Jun 15	all	all
	Ft Peck Dredge Cuts <b>Note:</b> bow & arrow harvest only; snagging not allowed!	blue	July 1 - Aug 31	all - bow & arrow harvest only	none
	Ft Peck Dam to ND Line	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat	none
Yellowstone River	Big Horn R to Intake Dam	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat	none
	Intake FAS	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat	Sun, Mon, Thur
	Downstream of Intake FAS to ND Line	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat	none
ND = North Dakota		FAS = Fishing Access Site		C&R = Catch and Release	

**TO REPORT FISHERIES VIOLATIONS CALL 1-800-TIP-MONT**

#### To Tag a Paddlefish—

- Cut a small hole in the base of the dorsal fin (see illustration).
- Insert the metal loop portion of the plastic self-locking tag through this hole and seal tag.
- The metal loop must penetrate the fish so as to make the plastic self-locking tag non-removable when tag is sealed.
- The plastic self-locking tag must be completely sealed so it cannot be reopened.

Any fish not tagged in accordance with these instructions shall be considered to be untagged. You must have your conservation and paddlefish license in your possession to fish for or/and take paddlefish.



Closed

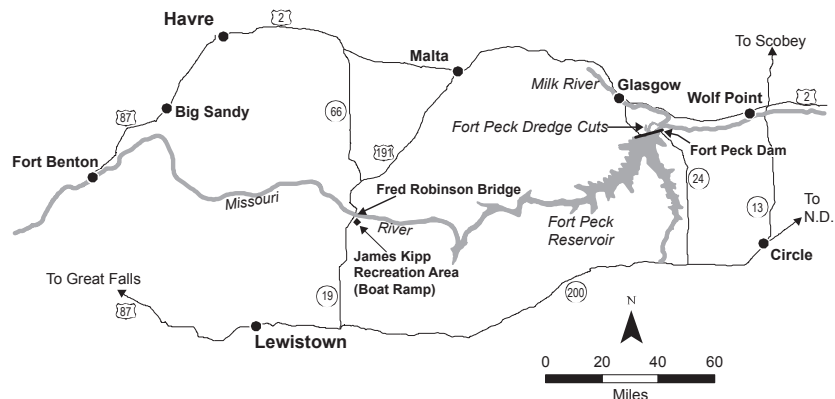


Open

**IMPORTANT:** Do not seal your self-locking tag prior to attachment to fish. They cannot be reopened and will be void if sealed prior to attachment.



#### MISSOURI RIVER UPSTREAM FROM FORT PECK DAM



#### Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton - WHITE TAG

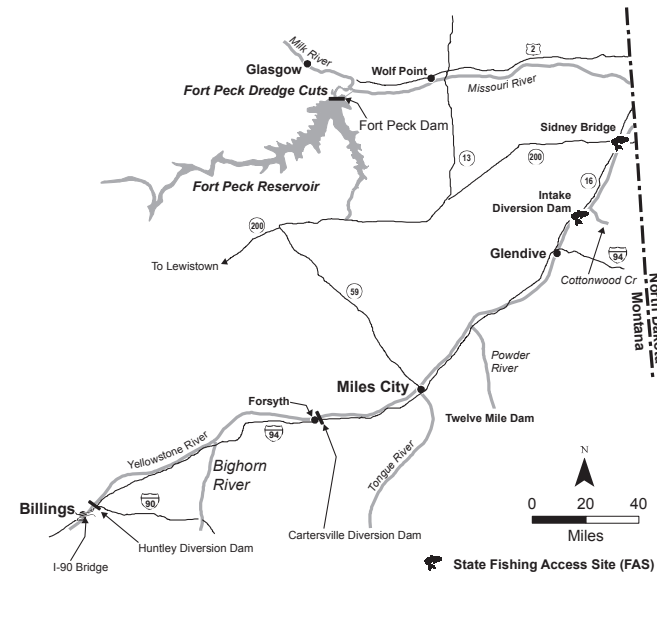
- The paddlefish fishery is managed under an annual harvest target not to exceed 500 fish. FWP may close the harvest season within 24 hours notice in any year if it appears the harvest target may be exceeded. Catch-and-release fishing would continue for the duration of the season. For current information on harvest status call the Glasgow FWP office at 406-228-3700. A paddlefish harvest hotline is available with up-to-date harvest counts and Missouri River flow information.
- Paddlefish snagging: open to harvesting paddlefish from May 1 to June 15 (unless closed earlier by FWP) from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST) daily. An unused white paddlefish tag is required. All paddlefish captured must either be tagged and kept, or released immediately.

- Catch-and-release snagging for paddlefish is open from May 1 to June 15. Proof of purchase of a white paddlefish tag on your fishing license is required for catch-and-release fishing. All paddlefish must be released immediately and may not be gaffed or lifted out of the water. Captured fish must remain at least partially submerged in water at all times (to avoid injury to the fish).

#### Fort Peck Dredge Cuts (west of Park Grove Bridge & Nelson Dredge) - BLUE TAG

- Bow and Arrow: open July 1 through August 31 for paddlefish. 1 paddlefish per angler. An unused blue paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish.
- Snagging: no snagging allowed, this is an **archery only** season.

#### YELLOWSTONE & LOWER MISSOURI RIVERS



#### Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam & Yellowstone River - YELLOW TAG

- The paddlefish fishery is managed under a harvest target in conjunction with North Dakota. Montana has set regulations so that annual harvest will not exceed 1000 fish. FWP may close the season within 24 hours notice in any year if it appears the harvest target may be exceeded, and immediately at the Intake FAS and downstream to Cottonwood Creek, when it is estimated that the target has been reached. For current information on harvest status call the Miles City FWP office at 406-234-0900.
- The Montana nonprofit corporation designated to accept paddlefish egg donations for the caviar market is authorized to transport lawfully taken and tagged paddlefish donated by the angler in accordance with guidelines developed and implemented through the annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Paddlefish taken on the Yellowstone River between the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge at Glendive and the North Dakota state line and donated by the angler at the Intake FAS or at the Sidney Bridge FAS are eligible for transport by designated individuals.